



News Release

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COMPLETION COUNTS RECRUITS VOLUNTEERS FOR CITYWIDE COLLEGE GUIDANCE CAMPAIGN

College Ambassadors Get Free Training to Mentor Youth August 15 and 22

RIVERSIDE, CA – (August 14, 2012) Completion Counts has launched a free two-day training session for community volunteers to mentor youth and provide them with step-by-step information on college admissions, financial aid, and career choices. The College Ambassador initiative is part of Riverside's citywide strategy to raise college-going and college-completion rates by 2020.

Training sessions at the Youth Opportunity Center, 2060 University Ave. Riverside, will be from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. August 15 and August 22 with light refreshments provided.

Volunteers will get information about university entrance requirements and online resources like College311.org to help youth get into college. After completing the training, College Ambassadors are encouraged to take that message into the local community.

"An overwhelming number of Riverside students are the first in their family to go to college," said Completion Counts director Cindy Taylor. "I know folks in our community are willing to lend their time and talents to help us reach out to all Riverside students and give them the college information they need," she said.

The training session is led by Greg Cabrera, guidance counselor at Arlington High School in Riverside.

A college completion grant by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation helped pay for the program.

To register, call the Office of the Mayor at (951) 826-2436 or visit www.College311.org

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Completion Counts is Riverside's partnership to raise college graduation rates by 2020. Its five-point action plan is driven by the City of Riverside, Riverside City College, Alvord and Riverside Unified School Districts, Riverside County Office of Education, University of California Riverside, and Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce. The work of Completion Counts began in 2010 with a \$3 million grant awarded to Riverside by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. www.CompletionCounts.org